General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 October 2001

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 31

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.4 and Add.1)*]

56/2. University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/29 of 18 November 1999, in which it recalled that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for postgraduate studies, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system,

Recalling also that in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980 it approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[1]

Recalling further its resolutions 45/8 of 24 October 1990, 46/11 of 24 October 1991 and 48/9 of 25 October 1993,

Recalling that in its resolution 46/11 it decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session and biennially thereafter an item entitled "University for Peace",

Recalling also its resolution 50/41 of 8 December 1995, in which it decided to request the Secretary-General to consider ways of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,

Recalling further its adoption on 13 September 1999 of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,[2]

Noting that in 1991 the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, established a Trust Fund for Peace consisting of voluntary contributions in order to provide the University with the means necessary to extend its sphere of activity to the whole world, taking full advantage of its potential capacity for education, research and support of the United Nations and to carry out its mandate of promoting peace in the world,

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[1] See resolution 35/55, annex.

[2] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

Noting with appreciation that the Government of Uruguay, by agreement with the University for Peace, established in 1997 a World Centre for Research and Information on Peace as regional subheadquarters of the University for South America,

Noting also with appreciation the vigorous actions taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the encouragement and support of the Government of Costa Rica, to revitalize the University,[3]

Noting that the University has placed special emphasis on the area of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-building and peaceful settlement of disputes, and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts, which is highly relevant to the promotion of universal peace,

Noting also that the University has launched a broad programme for building a culture of peace in Central America and the Caribbean in the context of the efforts being made by the United Nations and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the development and promotion of a culture of peace,

Noting with appreciation that the University organized a symposium in celebration of the International Year of Older Persons, 1999, at which it emphasized the valuable contribution that older persons can make to the promotion of peace, solidarity, tolerance and the culture of peace,

Recognizing the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period 1999–2000, within its financial limitations and with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among persons, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among peoples irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture,

Considering that, by its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace and that it should be ushered in with One Day in Peace, 1 January 2000,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 54/29 on ways of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace;[4]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider using the services of the University in his conflict-resolution and peace-building efforts and in the promotion of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[2]

3. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and interested individuals to contribute directly to the Trust Fund for Peace or to the budget of the University;

[3] See A/54/312, para. 2.

[4] A/56/314.

4. *Invites* Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[1] thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace;

5. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "University for Peace".

29th plenary meeting
22 October 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 November 2001

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 25

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.6)*]

56/3. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/23 of 13 November 2000, in which it decided to devote two days of plenary meetings at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 3 and 4 December 2001, to the consideration of the item entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations",

Decides to convene the plenary meetings devoted to the item entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations" on 8 and 9 November 2001.

33rd plenary meeting
30 October 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 November 2001

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 171

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.8 and Add.1)*]

56/4. Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] which emphasized the necessity of safeguarding nature for the sake of future generations and working for the protection of our common environment,

Considering that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long beyond the period of conflict, and often extends beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation,

Recalling Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that all Member States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any State in their international relations,

1. *Declares* 6 November each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict;

2. *Invites* Member States, entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to observe 6 November each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of the present resolution and to promote it in the international community.

37th plenary meeting
5 November 2001

[1] See resolution 55/2.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 November 2001

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 28

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.5 and Add.1)*]

56/5. International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolution 55/47 of 29 November 2000,

Reaffirming the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, recognizing that they serve, inter alia, as the basis for the observance of the Decade, and convinced that effective and successful observance of the Decade throughout the world will promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,[4] including paragraph 28 thereof which indicates that each of the ten years of the Decade will be marked with a different priority theme related to the Programme of Action,

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[1] Resolution 53/243 A.

[2] Resolution 53/243 B.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] A/56/349.

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/66 of 26 April 2000, entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[5]

Emphasizing the particular relevance of the special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held in New York during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010,

Taking into account the "Manifesto 2000" initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has so far received over seventy-four million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the International Decade for a culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World is to further strengthen the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000;

2. *Invites* Member States to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular during the Decade, at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

3. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for recognizing the promotion of a culture of peace as the expression of its fundamental mandate, and requests it, as the lead agency for the Decade, to further strengthen the activities it has undertaken for promoting a culture of peace;

4. *Also commends* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the University for Peace, for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[2]

5. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its efforts to disseminate in various languages, inter alia, through its national commissions, the Declaration on a Culture of Peace[1] and the Programme of Action and related materials, in particular throughout the Decade;

6. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to continue to promote both formal and non-formal education at all levels that foster a culture of peace and non-violence;

7. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue and strengthen its efforts in furtherance of the objectives of the Decade, inter alia, by adopting its own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other global and regional organizations;

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[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

8. *Also encourages* the involvement of the mass media in education for a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people, including through the planned expansion of the Culture of Peace News Network as a global network of Internet sites in many languages;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue the communication and networking arrangements established during the International Year for providing an instant update of developments related to the observance of the Decade;

10. *Invites* Member States as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to provide information to the Secretary-General on the observance of the Decade and the activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

37th plenary meeting
5 November 2001